

## **Amendments to the Specification**

Please insert before the first line of the specification:

This application claims the benefit of priority to Japanese Patent Application 2002-192951, filed July 2, 2002.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 26, lines 3-11 as follows:

In the first embodiment, a second free magnetic layer 38 is formed from the upper surface of the nonmagnetic layer 27, which is the uppermost layer of the multilayer laminate 30, to the upper surface of the nonmagnetic layer 37 spreading over both sides in the track width direction. The second free magnetic layer 38 is formed of a NiFe alloy or the like, as with the first free magnetic layer 26. The first second free magnetic layer 38 has a single-layer structure. However, it may have a layered structure including two or more layers.